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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 27, 2012, at 11 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. James E. Smith, senior pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Pioneer, LA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Almighty God says, in 2 Chronicles, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place."

Lord, please grant our lawmakers the humility to know that complete consensus on most of the moral, religious, or political issues of these times is beyond their control. Only You, Almighty God, can move this body to seek Your wise counsel and live to honor You above all else.

As Apostle Paul says, in Ephesians, "Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." May God bless America. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the guest Chaplain is from the State of Louisiana. It is my understanding Senator VITTER would like to say a few words, so I yield to him.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, it is my true honor and distinct pleasure—joy, really—to help host Reverend Smith today. As the Acting President pro tempore said, Reverend Smith is the senior pastor of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Pioneer, LA. He is from Rayville, LA. All of this is in northeast Louisiana, the Monroe area.

Reverend Smith is very distinguished and has brought real hope to so many people in so many communities in that area—first of all, as a spiritual leader, the leader of his congregation and so many others; secondly, as a true leader in fighting truancy, fighting dropout rates very effectively, and also developing good jobs through many school systems. But the third point I really want to make is that I am most joyful to help host him today because he is a true and a good and a tremendously supportive friend. I know that from personal experience, from personal counsel and encouragement, and so do so many other Louisianans know that, and we cherish the reverend in that very personal way. So I am truly honored and delighted to be able to introduce the Senate to Reverend Smith.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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